

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

M-2427

22 May 1984

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Dear [redacted]

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This is in response to your letter of 17 August 1979 in which you appeal the decision of this Agency denying your Freedom of Information Act request for two kinds of sample satellite reconnaissance images: (1) 5 images of strategic military facilities in the Soviet Union at a resolution of 50 meters and (2) 5 images of strategic nuclear forces in the United States at a resolution of one meter.

Your appeal letter has been presented to the Central Intelligence Agency Information Review Committee. Pursuant to the authority delegated under paragraph 1900.51(a) of Chapter XIX, Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Mr. James H. Taylor, Inspector General, has reviewed the relevant materials pertaining to your request, the determinations made with respect to them and the propriety of applying the exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act under which your request was processed. Mr. Taylor has determined that your request for samplings of satellite reconnaissance imagery must be denied on the basis of exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the Freedom of Information Act.

As you know, exemption (b)(1) of the Act encompasses matters which are specifically authorized under criteria established by the appropriate Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and which are, in fact, currently and properly classified. Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, 50 U.S.C. §403g, which exempts from the disclosure requirements information pertaining to the organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries, or numbers of personnel employed by the Agency, and subsection 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947, 50 U.S.C. 403(d)(3), as amended, which makes the Director of Central Intelligence responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.


In accordance with the provision of the Freedom of Information Act, you have the right to seek judicial review of the above determinations in a United States District Court.

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We regret that our response to your letter of appeal has been so long delayed. We appreciate your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,


Harry E. Fitzwater
Chairman
Information Review Committee

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